

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5011

EXDIS

PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PK, US, PFOR
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY

1. SINCE AZIZ AHMED DEPARTED PAKISTAN MAY 15 FOR ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS SUMMIT IN TRIPOLI, I ASKED TO SEE AGHA SHAHI AND MET HIM IN HIS OFFICE AT NOON, MAY 16. I TOLD THE FOREIGN SECRETARY THAT I HAD VERY USEFUL AND EXTENSIVE TALKS IN TEHRAN WITH THE SECRETARY, THE UNDER SECRETARY, AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY ON OUR RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. SECRETARY VANCE ASKED THAT WHEN I RETURNED TO ISLAMABAD I SEE THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO CONVEY AN ORAL MESSAGE TO HIM. IN LIGHT OF INSTRUCTIONS I RECEIVED TO SOFTEN THE ORAL DEMARCH BECAUSE OF AZIZ AHMED'S AGREEMENT TO MEET THE SECRETARY IN PARIS, I SPOKE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY.

2. QUOTE: DURING MY CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SECRETARY IN TEHRAN, WE CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE SITUATION ARISING FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S APRIL 28 SPEECH ACCUSING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OF MASSIVE INTERVENTION IN PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE SECRETARY REITERATED HIS DISPLEASURE OVER THE REHRATED FALSE CHARGES AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.

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3. THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED HIS UNHAPPINESS THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER DID NOT COME TO TEHRAN, BUT HOPED THAT A MEETING COULD BE ARRANGED AT CIEC IN PARIS. THE SECRETARY WAS PUZZLED AND DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE CONTINUATION OF THE ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES IN PAKISTAN AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN DID NOT AGREE WITH OUR EARLIER TWO

PROPOSALS FOR THE KIND OF QUIET AND DISPASSIONATE TALKS WE THINK CONSISTENT WITH OUR RELATIONS.

4. THE CHARGES LEVELED AGAINST US ARE FUNDAMENTALLY INIMICAL TO OUR RELATIONS AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE VIEW THIS ISSUE WILL BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER. A MEETING IN PARIS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER SHOULD ADDRESS THE CENTRAL QUESTION OF RESOLVING THIS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US AND RETURNING OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE SOUND, BENEFICIAL BASIS WE BOTH DESIRE. FOR HIS PART, SECRETARY VANCE WOULD APPROACH THE MEETING WITH A SINCERE DESIRE TO SEE US REESTABLISH THAT FORMER RELATIONSHIP. UNQUOTE. (SINCE I HAD NOT YET RECEIVED CABLE FROM TEHRAN GIVING BACKGROUND ON HOW WE WERE INFORMED ABOUT AZIZ AHMED'S WILLINGNESS TO SEE THE SECRETARY IN PARIS, I DECIDED IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO INDICATE WHETHER I KNEW OF HIS PLANS.)

5. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH I HAD ASKED TO SEE HIM THIS MORNING, HE ALSO WANTED TO SEE ME TO SAY THAT AZIZ AHMED DOES PLAN TO GO TO PARIS AND MEET WITH THE SECRETARY DURING CIEC. ALTHOUGH THE MINISTER'S TRAVEL DATES ARE TENTATIVE, AFTER HE RETURNS FROM TRIPOLI THIS COMING WEEKEND THE MFA WILL LET US KNOW THE EXACT DATES HE WILL BE IN PARIS. AGHA SHAHI ADDED THAT AMBASSADOR YAQUB IS BEING ASKED TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S WILLINGNESS TO MEET THE SECRETARY IN PARIS.

6. I TOLD AGHA SHAHI I WAS CERTAIN SECRETARY VANCE LOOKS
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FORWARD TO SEEING AZIZ AHMED IN PARIS AND DISCUSSING WITH HIM IN A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY HOW WE CAN RETURN OUR RELATIONSHIP TO ITS FORMER MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL STATE. I THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT I WAS NOW SPEAKING INFORMALLY AND I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR THE FOREIGN SECRETARY TO HAVE SOME OF THE IMPRESSIONS I CARRIED BACK TO ISLAMABAD. IT BECAME OBVIOUS DURING MY LENGTHY TALK WITH THE SECRETARY AND THE RANKING MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY THAT ALL WERE DEEPLY DISTURBED, DISAPPOINTED AND PUZZLED BY THE CHARGES LEVELED AGAINST US. THIS WAS ESPECIALLY TRUE CONSIDERING OUR PAST CLOSE AND WARM TIES. I RETURNED WITH THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT IF THE CHARGES AGAINST US CONTINUE, WE WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO MAKE EFFORTS TO RESTORE OUR GOOD RELATIONS.

7. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID HE WANTED TO ADDRESS ONE POINT I HAD RAISED, NAMELY, THAT ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES ARE CONTINUING. HE SAID THIS WAS NOT SO. THERE HAVE BEEN NO ANTI-AMERICAN STATEMENTS BY OFFICIAL GOP SPOKESMEN. NEWSPAPER COLUMISTS SUCH AS BURKI AND ZENO MAY BE WRITING SUCH MATERIAL

BUT THE GOP HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM AND HAS NO CONTROL OVER THEM. AGHA SHAHI ADDED THAT BUGRI IS OPINIONATED AND EMOTIONAL AND THE GOP CANNOT CONTROL HIM. HE SAID THAT THE PM IN HIS LETTER TO THE SECRETARY SAID HE WAS NOT ABLE TO ACHIEVE AN ABRUPT STOP TO THE ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN BUT HE WILL TRY TO CONTAIN IT.

8. I REPLIED THAT I NOTED THE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON BURKI. I SAID I RAISED THIS ISSUE ORALLY WITH DR. HYDER, DIRECTOR GENERAL, AMERICAS, AT THE MFA, LAST WEEK AND NOTICED THAT MY COMMENTS WERE DISTORTED IN A COLUMN WRITTEN BY BURKI ON MAY 15. I, THEREFORE, SAW NO FURTHER PURPOSE IN DISCUSSING THE QUESTION OF BURKI'S COLUMNS. I DID WANT TO ADD HOWEVER THAT ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN IS NOT LIMITED TO NEWSPAPER ARTICLES. GOP OFFICIALS HAVE CONTINUED TO ATTACK US. ALTHOUGH THE PRIME MINISTER DID NOT MENTION US BY NAME IN HIS SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT MAY 13, HE DID REFER TO CONFIDENTIAL

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"A MASSIVE INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY." THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS IS NOW TOURING SIND AND IS ALSO ALLUDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY AGAINST PAKISTAN AND IMPLICITLY ACCUSING THE UNITED STATES. WE WANT TO SEE THE CAMPAIGN STOPPED AND WE HOPE THE TALKS IN PARIS CAN LEAD US TO A WAY OUT. I ADDED THAT WE HOPE THE ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN WILL CEASE SO THAT A CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE MEETING IN PARIS CAN BE CREATED.

9. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY THEN SAID THAT MANY COUNTRIES HAD COME TO THE MFA AND ASKED TO SEE THE PROOF OF AMERICAN INTERFERENCE IN PAKISTAN'S DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. THE GOP HAS DECIDED NOT TO MAKE THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE, HOWEVER, FOR IF IT DID, IT MIGHT LEAK TO THE PRESS AND DETRIMENTALLY AFFECT OUR RELATIONSHIP. (YET ANOTHER DISINGENUOUS REASON.) HE ADDED THAT HE HOPED THE TALKS IN IN PARIS WOULD BE FRANK AND HELPFUL. I AGREED AND SAID I WAS CERTAIN THE SECRETARY AS WELL HOPES THE MEETING IS FRUITFUL AND THAT IT WOULD PLACE US ON A CONSTRUCTIVE COURSE.
CONSTABLE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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